



Department of Homeland
Security
IAIP Directorate
Daily Open Source
Infrastructure Report
for 27 September 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)
www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *September 24, Portsmouth Herald (NH)* — **F-15s respond to nuke plant.** A helicopter pilot flying near Seabrook Station nuclear plant located near Portsmouth, NH, was diverted to Manchester, NH, Airport after being confronted by two Massachusetts Air National Guard F-15 jets sent from Otis Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod, MA. According to officials, the pilot will not face charges because nothing illegal took place. "There is no prohibition about helicopters flying over a nuclear power plant," said Jim Peters, spokesperson for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) New England Region. **At around 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 23, Seabrook Station security officials noticed a low-flying aircraft in close proximity to the nuclear power plant. According to Alan Griffith, spokesperson for the plant, initial attempts to contact the pilot were unsuccessful.** FAA officials were notified, they then contacted the North American Aerospace Defense Command, and two F-15 fighter jets were ordered to fly to the airspace over the plant. Griffith said that once communication was established with the helicopter pilot, he was diverted to Manchester Airport, where he was questioned by authorities upon landing. According to Griffith, **the security concern was raised because "all licensed pilots know there are key industrial facilities that (pilots) are not supposed to fly near or over."**

Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/09242004/news/39212.htm>

2.

September 24, CBS MarketWatch — **Strategic reserve oil sent to refiners.** The Department of Energy (DOE) authorized 1.7 million barrels of oil to be sent from the nation's strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) to Gulf Coast refineries operated by Shell Trading and Placid Refining Co., a department spokesperson said Friday, September 24. **The first shipment of 300,000 barrels was shipped to Placid's Louisiana refinery while an additional 1.4 million barrels shipped on Saturday, September 25, to Shell refineries in Louisiana and Texas, the spokesperson said. The oil will offset recent supply disruptions in the Gulf region in the wake of Hurricane Ivan.** Both companies submitted requests for oil to the DOE. Placid, controlled by Petro-Hunt, is a leading supplier of jet fuel to the U.S. military. **The department has received further requests for oil supplies from the reserve that it has not yet acted upon,** the spokesperson said. DOE has said all paybacks to replace the loaned oil will be returned to the reserve. Approximately 670 million barrels of oil are in the strategic reserve, a series of four underground caverns along the Gulf of Mexico. The SPR is expected to reach its full capacity, 700 million barrels, in 2005.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/yhoo/story.asp?source=blq/yhoo&siteid=yhoo&dist=yhoo&guid=%7B37DC31D5%2DB043%2D4EFC%2DB9D9%2D3BE05FD71882%7D>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *September 25, Washington Post* — **Army floats a trial balloon.** The Army has leased a blimp from the nation's only airship manufacturer and outfitted it with sensors and cameras. Over the next week, the 178-foot-long lighter-than-air craft will conduct test runs over the Washington, D.C. area. In the fabric gondola hanging below the envelope, a technician will aim a camera, mounted to the front of the cabin, at government buildings and military bases. **The tests are designed to determine how effective the electro-optical and infrared cameras are at detecting potentially threatening movements on the ground when attached to a blimp yawing in the heat currents as it floats along 1,000 feet in the air at 30 knots.** The equipment already is used in Iraq and Afghanistan to identify enemy troop movement, but in combat zones it is attached to a static inflatable device that looks like a giant, blimp-shaped balloon.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A48616-2004Sep 24.html>

4. *September 24, USNORTHCOM* — **Domestic warning center's name reflects only a portion of its mission.** It is called the U.S. Northern Command's (USNORTHCOM) domestic warning center (DWC) but the name does not adequately reflect the center's diverse responsibilities. **The DWC tracks potential threats -- man-made and natural -- assesses them and provides a "heads up" so the command can prevent, deter and defeat land and maritime threats. When deterrence is not possible, the center coordinates federal military support**

to assist civil authorities in mitigating the after-effects. “Obviously when there is a disaster, first responders are the most important element with the state National Guard as their principal back up,” said Navy Capt. Brad Johanson, the DWC’s chief of current operations. He said the center coordinates back up assistance for local, state and other federal agencies, “covering any gaps in services.” Johanson explained that the military provides “specialized assistance” that may not be available in the civilian sector. Following the September 11, 2001 terrorists attacks, U.S. leadership created USNORTHCOM to defend the homeland, its territories and interests and to coordinate all Department of Defense civil support during a presidential declared emergency or disaster.

Source: <http://www.northcom.mil/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.showstory&storyid=31A44806-9F40-9624-F2AA0262A8C6E48A>

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *September 23, Chesterton Tribune (IN)* — **Horizon Bank warns of Internet phishing scam.** **Horizon Bank of Indiana is warning customers and residents of a phishing scam in which Internet scammers calling themselves “Citizens Bank” attempt to deceive consumers into disclosing credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security numbers, passwords, and other sensitive personal and financial information.** “The fraudsters,” Horizon Bank said in a statement released Tuesday, September 21, “tell recipients that they need to ‘update’ or ‘validate’ their billing information to keep their accounts active, and direct them to a ‘look-alike’ Website of the legitimate business, further tricking consumers into thinking they are responding to a bonafide request. Unknowingly, consumers submit their financial information not to the businesses but the scammers, who use it to order goods and services and obtain credit.”
Source: http://chestertontribune.com/PoliceFireEmergency/horizon_bank_warns_of_internet_p.htm
6. *September 23, eWeek* — **Phishers spoof FDIC site.** A phishing scam that appeared Thursday, September 24, claiming to help protect consumers against debit card fraud and identity theft has experts worried about the increasing skill and creativity of online scammers. **The scam, which takes the form of an e-mail message, falsely claims that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) has created a new program to track suspicious activity on accounts linked to consumers' ATM, debit and check cards. The message contains an authentic-looking FDIC logo and directs recipients to a spoofed Website that anti-phishing experts say is located in China.** Representatives from the U.S.-based Anti-Phishing Working Group have been working with officials from China's CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) to take down the fraudulent site. The Website to which the e-mail directs recipients is virtually identical to the actual FDIC site and contains a further description of the fake protection program. The site claims that most major U.S. banks are participating in the program.
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1759.1650700.00.asp>

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Transportation Sector

7. *September 26, Pacific Business News (HI)* — **Harbors reach capacity. Hawaii's harbors have reached their capacity more quickly than anyone ever anticipated, and it will cost at least \$500 million to expand and upgrade piers, terminals and warehouses across the islands.** Shipping companies say they already can't handle any more cargo, even as containers stack up on the docks to meet the demands of the booming economy. The state Department of Transportation and harbor users are scrambling to come up with short-term and long-range plans to handle a crunch that wasn't expected for at least another decade. **With a finite amount of land available, no one knows what the solution is or how much it will cost in private and public money to keep the state's cargo-handling systems afloat.** Some estimates place the cost at a minimum of \$500 million. An internal report recently prepared by the state harbors division now estimates that Honolulu Harbor will run out of space in 2006 for foreign cargo and 2011 for domestic cargo. Piers 1 and 2, which handle all foreign cargo, are already out of space, said Tom Colson, president of Island Maritime, broker for the international shipping line PM&O. The problems extend to interisland and mainland shipping.
Source: <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/6092680/>
8. *September 24, Associated Press* — **Terrorism study calls for speeding airport check-in.** Moving travelers more quickly through check-in and screening at Los Angeles International Airport is the cheapest way to protect them from a potential terror attack, according to a new study commissioned by the city. **Slow screenings have created long lines on sidewalks and in lobbies that are a "tempting target for terrorists," the Rand Corporation said in a 47-page report released Friday, September 24.** The study called for a series of relatively low-cost changes including a recommendation that the city spend about \$4 million annually to add workers at curbside and security checkpoints. **It also advised the airport to run background checks on all its personnel, screen cargo for explosives and build permanent vehicle checkpoints.** A second part of the study, expected to be completed next year, will examine Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn's \$9 billion plan to modernize the airport, which has been opposed by community members and some on the City Council. Hahn praised the study, saying the findings are consistent with issues raised by airport and security officials. The study proposed forming a SWAT team to reduce an attack by armed terrorists. "There is a distinct possibility that the existing airport police force might not be able to respond effectively to such an attack," researchers said. Researchers also suggested installing a fence with motion detection to deter intruders.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2004-09-25-la-airport_x.htm
9. *September 23, Washington Post* — **No driver's licenses for California's illegal immigrants.** Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Wednesday, September 22, vetoed a bill that would have given as many as two million illegal immigrants California driver's licenses, **saying the measure failed to provide sufficient security provisions at a time of heightened terrorism fears. "This bill does not adequately address the security concerns that my Department of Homeland Security and I have, and I cannot support it,"** Schwarzenegger said in a brief veto message. Ten states allow illegal immigrants to apply for licenses, and the issue has long been important to Latino lawmakers here. Opponents argued the measure would reward people who are in the country illegally and could make it easier for terrorists to assimilate. Polls show a majority of California voters are against allowing undocumented immigrants licenses. More

than 20 states, including Virginia, prohibit illegal immigrants from getting licenses.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A45651-2004Sep 23.html>

10. *September 23, Federal Computer Week* — **Traffic controllers protest ASDE-X cuts.** Budget cuts are threatening the deployment of runway safety technology, members of an air traffic controllers union said on Thursday, September 23. **The equipment at stake is Airport Surface Detection Equipment-Model X (ASDE-X), which provides air traffic controllers with an all-weather, seamless airport surface surveillance system that uses radar and a process of determining a target location in two or three dimensions called multilateration.** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials are behind schedule in deploying the technology, and only 15 of 34 mid-level airports slated to get the technology will have it by 2007, members of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association said. ASDE-X is a multisensor surveillance system that gathers data from surface radar on air traffic control towers or remote towers, the terminal-automation system, and multilateration sensors located throughout the airport. ASDE-X fuses this data to produce a color map that tracks aircraft and vehicles moving on airport surfaces as well as aircraft that are approaching runways and taxiways. In coming months, enhanced ASDE-X will provide automatic audio and visual alerts when it detects potential collisions. This is useful when controllers cannot see from the towers due to clouds or fog.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0920/web-faa-09-23-04.a.sp>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

11. *September 24, USAgNet* — **Alabama governor asks USDA to declare disaster.** Alabama Governor Bob Riley has asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture to declare Alabama a federal agriculture disaster area after Hurricane Ivan ruined the vast majority of the state's pecan crop and damaged other crops. An agriculture disaster declaration would allow farmers to apply for low-interest federal loans and receive other types of assistance, including emergency haying and grazing payments. "Agriculture is Alabama's number one employer," Riley said. "It is absolutely critical that we provide affected farmers with the help they need. It is painfully clear that Alabama's farmers all over the state have suffered significant losses due to the hurricane." Alabama Agriculture Commissioner Ron Sparks has said that the state's nine million dollar pecan crop was mostly wiped out by the hurricane. **His agency is assessing damage to the state's \$200 million cotton crop, which he said suffered significant damage.** He said the state's 194,000 acres of peanuts, worth about \$120 million, were also hurt, but the extent of the damage is still unclear.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=1000&yr=2004>

12.

September 24, South Dakota Ag Connection — **Research initiative. A new research initiative at South Dakota State University (SDSU) will focus on technologies that will protect animal health.** The state has awarded \$780,000 for the first year of a five-year program to fund a grant entitled a "Center for Infectious Disease Research and Vaccinology" at SDSU, with the cooperation and support of University of South Dakota researchers. Contingent on approval from the South Dakota Legislature, the grant will funnel the same amount of money into the project for each of the four additional years, for a total of \$3.9 million. **SDSU researchers are particularly interested in "needle-less vaccine strategies," or vaccines that don't require an injection,** said veterinary science professor David Francis, the lead investigator for the project. "In the livestock industry there are several issues here. One is that there are risks of abscesses or broken needles in tissues where vaccines have been injected. That can cause serious problems for the meat industry. Also there are some issues of transmission of disease. Diseases are transmitted by reused needles in animals just as in humans." Francis added that needle-less vaccine strategies could reduce the labor costs of administering vaccines — potentially a huge savings to livestock producers.
Source: <http://www.southdakotaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=722&yr=2004>

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Food Sector

13. *September 24, just-food.com* — **Grocery acquisition. Belgian grocer Delhaize has announced the acquisition of U.S. counterpart Victory Super Markets for \$175 million.** The acquisition was conclude via Delhaize's New England based unit Hannaford. The Belgian-based company does much of its business in the eastern U.S. Victory's 19 supermarkets had an annual turnover of around \$385m and their location and range of food fitted well with existing Hannaford stores, Delhaize added.
Source: http://www.just-food.com/news_detail.asp?art=58752

14. *September 20, Food Navigator* — **BSE tests. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) backs calls for a rapid test for live cattle in the battle against Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), which could save on needless culling.** At the request of the European Commission (EC), the food agency called together an expert group of scientists to examine the community's need to introduce on to the market new rapid tests. At present five rapid BSE test kits are approved by the EC for the routine post mortem testing of slaughtered cattle over 30 months of age. "It has been recognised that the availability of a rapid test for live cattle would be a major advance in dealing with the problem of BSE and TSE in general, but particularly with regard to epidemiological screening," said EFSA.
Source: <http://www.foodnavigator.com/news/news-NG.asp?n=54815-efsa-backs-rapid>

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Water Sector

15. *September 24, Water Tech Online* — **Water-bottler purchased. M2P Capital, LLC, and Norwest Equity Partners has announced the purchase of Denver, CO, based Deep Rock**

Water Company and its divisions and affiliates. In Colorado and Nebraska, Deep Rock has production facilities in Denver, Grand Junction, and Omaha with customer sales and service centers in Colorado Springs, Fort Lupton, and Avon, CO. In Minnesota, Glenwood Inglewood has a production facility in Minneapolis. **The company's products are distributed in 12 states.** Water types bottled by the companies include natural artesian water, natural spring water, drinking water purified by reverse osmosis (RO), and distilled water. **The company also leases, sells and services water filtration and RO technology.**

Source: http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4&N_ID=50384

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Public Health Sector

16. *September 25, Agence France Presse* — **WHO suspects human transmission of bird flu. The World Health Organization (WHO) said Saturday, September 25, it was "suspecting human-to-human transmission" of bird flu had occurred in northern Thailand, marking what could be the first such transmission of the lethal virus.** "From the existing data... we are suspecting human to human transmission" of bird flu, the WHO's acting Thailand representative Kumara Rai said after studying information from Kamphaeng Phet province where the deaths of a girl and boy are suspected to be caused by bird flu. The 11-year-old girl's mother, who lived near Bangkok but traveled north to visit her daughter in the hospital and then attend her funeral, returned to the Thai capital where she too fell ill and died. Her death is also on the suspect list. Bird flu is suspect but has not been confirmed in the cases, and laboratory tests on the three fatalities, as well as of the girl's aunt who has been hospitalized, were being conducted to determine whether they carried the virus. Avian influenza's lethal H5N1 strain has killed 28 people in Vietnam and Thailand this year in two waves of Asian outbreaks which also caused the death or culling of more than 100 million chickens. **The WHO fears H5N1 could mutate into a highly contagious form that triggers a global human flu pandemic. When asked if a confirmed viral leap between humans in the Thai cases would mark the first step in such a feared mutation, Rai said "I think so."**

Source: http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/108462/1/.html

17. *September 24, Associated Press* — **Sailors get tests for bird flu. Five Malaysian sailors underwent tests for bird flu on Friday, September 24, the first suspected cases beyond the borders of the country's five-week-old outbreak.** The sailors were hospitalized in Kota Kinabalu, capital of Sabah state on the tip of Borneo island, said Ramlee Rahmat, director of disease control at Malaysia's Health Ministry. Results were expected at the earliest on Monday, September 27. The navy personnel, said to be recovering, fell ill with flu-like symptoms after coming across dead swallows on Layang-Layang island, part of the disputed Spratlys group. The Spratlys lie more than 600 miles west of the northern state of Kelantan, which reported its first case of bird flu on August 17. The World Health Organization says migratory birds are spreading the disease and believe it is entrenched in parts of Asia after first appearing this year. If they do indeed have the disease, the sailors would be the first human cases in Malaysia. However, H5N1 virus has killed at least 28 people in Thailand and Vietnam.

Source: <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/fortwayne/news/local/9749743.htm>

18.

September 24, Rocky Mountain News (CO) — **Flu shots urged for all health workers.**

Colorado health agencies are urging their employees to get flu shots in the wake of a report that shows just 36 percent of health-care workers nationwide bother to get the immunization. **The report by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases said non-immunized health workers are a major source of the flu. It said some studies show that up to 44 percent of geriatric flu deaths can be prevented if health-care workers got the shots.** About 50 percent of Colorado non-elderly adults get a flu shot. Among the elderly, it's about 75 percent. About 40 percent of people who get the flu virus can be mostly asymptomatic, meaning they can appear well, and show up for work, but still pass it on to others. The Colorado Department of Public Health is alerting health agencies statewide to try to get their employees vaccinated. The flu kills about 36,000 Americans in a typical year and hospitalizes more than 100,000. During any given year about 15 percent of the population gets the flu. Boulder County Public Health is making sure this fall that virtually all its employees get the shot, director Chuck Stout said Wednesday. In early October, as part of its bioterrorism preparedness exercises, it will summon all workers to get flu shots within a four-hour window.

Source: http://rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0.1299.DRMN15_3205965.00.html

19. *September 23, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital* — **Anthrax enzyme images.**

Computer-generated images of a crucial anthrax bacterium enzyme are helping to solve the mystery of how slight mutations in the shape of this protein can make it resistant to the antibiotics called sulfa drugs. These findings, by scientists at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, appear in the September issue of *Structure*. **Based on these new insights into the structure of the enzyme, called DHPS, the St. Jude team has also developed a new molecule that appears likely to be able to block the enzyme's activity without triggering resistance.** DHPS normally combines the molecules DHPP and pABA during part of a biochemical pathway that produces folate, a nutrient these bacteria need to survive. Sulfa drugs are antibiotics that block pABA from binding to the enzyme, and thus block folate production. The St. Jude findings give important clues to how the enzyme binds to DHPP and pABA. They also provide a blueprint of the enzyme that researchers can use to design more effective antibiotics against the bacterium, *Bacillus anthracis*. Such information is especially valuable because the anthrax bacterium is widely regarded as a potential bioterrorism weapon. **The finding could also be the basis for a broad-spectrum antibiotic to treat a variety of other infections that are becoming resistant to these drugs.**

Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-09/sjcr-aei092304.php

20. *September 23, BBC News* — **Science cracks bacteria's code. Scientists have deciphered the complete sequence of DNA in the bacterium that causes Legionnaires' disease.** Infection with the *Legionella pneumophila* bacterium can be deadly, especially in the elderly or those with compromised immune systems. As such, it is regarded as a major environmental hazard. The breakthrough could speed up the search for new vaccines and treatments. It has already highlighted genes that may account for *Legionella*'s extraordinary resistance to man-made disinfectants and its ability to survive in a variety of hosts. The researchers also identified previously unknown regions of the genome that could be involved in the bug's virulence. **The work may also help scientists understand a related bacterial pathogen called *Coxiella burnetii*, which causes Q Fever. *Coxiella* is highly infectious and is regarded by the US government as a potential bioterror threat.** The research is available at:

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/305/5692/1966>

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3677756.stm>

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Government Sector

21. *September 24, Washington Post* — **Goss sworn in as new CIA director. Porter Goss was sworn in Friday, September 24, to head the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and lead an intelligence community which has faced intense criticism since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the Iraq war.** Goss, 65, moved to the CIA from Congress where he represented southwest Florida in the House since 1989. The Senate approved his nomination on a 77–17 vote Wednesday, September 22. A former CIA and Army intelligence officer during the 1960s, Goss is only the second congressman to lead the CIA, following former president and House member George H.W. Bush. In addition to serving as CIA director, Goss assumes the dual role as head of a loose confederation of 14 other agencies that make up the U.S. intelligence community.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A46913–2004Sep 24.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

22. *September 24, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS prepares for Hurricane Jeanne. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is coordinating federal response operations and readiness activities in the southeast as the U.S. prepares for Hurricane Jeanne, the fourth hurricane to threaten the U.S. since mid–August.** Over the past several weeks, Homeland Security has been providing ongoing rapid assistance and critical supplies through the Department’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to residents and businesses recovering from Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Ivan. Homeland Security remains fully committed to continuing these recovery activities and providing immediate assistance to those states and local governments who may need federal support following Hurricane Jeanne, which is expected to make landfall late this weekend. Homeland Security officials are fully coordinating preparations and in constant communication with federal partners, governors, and other state and local officials in Florida and other possible affected states.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4041>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

23. *September 24, Secunia* — **ColdFusion MX sensitive information disclosure and denial of service.** Two vulnerabilities have been reported in ColdFusion MX Server, which can be exploited by malicious people to disclose sensitive information and cause a DoS (Denial of Service). The vulnerabilities reportedly affect version 6.0, 6.1 and 6.1 J2EE – JRun. Original advisory and update information available at:

http://www.macromedia.com/devnet/security/security_zone/mpsb_04-09.html

Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/12647>

24. *September 24, Secunia* — **Macromedia JRun Server multiple vulnerabilities.** Multiple vulnerabilities have been reported in JRun Server versions 3.0, 3.1, and 4.0, which can be exploited by malicious people to hijack an authenticated user's session, conduct cross-site scripting attacks, disclose sensitive information, and cause a DoS (Denial of Service). Original advisory and update information available at:
http://www.macromedia.com/devnet/security/security_zone/mpsb_04-08.html
Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/12638/>
25. *September 24, Medill News Service* — **Group demonstrates possible solutions to a broadband wireless public safety network.** Law enforcement agencies across the country may one day link to a broadband wireless network that lets them view streaming video of felonies and identify criminals more quickly. However, the legislation necessary to make the network a reality isn't moving at the same pace as the technology. **The Spectrum Coalition for Public Safety, a national coalition of cities, counties, public safety associations, and law enforcement officials, held a press conference last week to demonstrate the potential of the network and urge Congress to allocate the spectrum needed.** As a demonstration, coalition members watched a video that depicted a simulated bomb threat, during which pictures were relayed from a security camera to a bomb squad and a witness identified a suspect by viewing real-time streaming video. "[There is] a pressing need for a national, wireless broadband network like we see here today," said Lt. Charles B. Smith, a coalition member who works for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. **Smith noted that during last year's forest fires in southern California, a wireless network would have permitted law enforcement agencies to share burn maps, personnel rosters, and information about containment areas in a much more efficient manner.** An 18-month wireless broadband pilot project for public safety is currently underway in Washington, D.C.
Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,117915,00.asp>
26. *September 23, Federal Computer Week* — **Don't hide from wireless risk.** The best wireless network security is to not have a wireless network, according to Defense and intelligence experts who spoke on Thursday, September 23, at a conference in Washington, D.C. But because that is not always a practical solution, they offered other tips to keep intruders out of the network and to keep data safe. **Perhaps the most important safety precaution is acknowledging the risk,** said Kevin Marlowe, acting director of systems network engineering at the Joint Systems Integration Command, a subcommand of the U.S. Joint Forces Command. No wireless device or network can ever be completely secure, said Atul Prakash, a professor at the University of Michigan's electrical engineering and computer sciences division. **Marlowe offered a list of tips for making wireless networks safer, including changing factory settings, such as default passwords, in the routers; enabling the router's session timeout feature so that if no data passes through it after a set period of time, it shuts down; and setting routers to the lowest feasible power, so they keep the network devices connected without opening the door wider than necessary.**
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0920/web-wireless-09-23-04.asp>

27.

September 23, Stateline.org — **Three states to let overseas soldiers vote by e-mail. For the first time, members of the U.S. armed forces stationed overseas can use e-mail to vote in the November 2 election if their legal residence is Missouri, North Dakota or Utah.** Those three states are pioneers in trying to make it easier for U.S. troops based overseas to cast absentee ballots. But the effort is not without its critics, who say the program raises privacy concerns and fears about possible vote tampering. E-voting is designed to speed up the delivery of servicemen's absentee ballots, which up to now have been mailed back or, in certain states, faxed in. A paper ballot is to be scanned and e-mailed to the Defense Department, which then will fax it to local election offices. The Defense Department recommends that military members vote absentee no later than October 15.

Source: <http://www.stateline.org/stateline/?pa=story&sa=showStoryInfo&id=400543>

28. *September 23, Associated Press* — **DHS official: safer software is everyone's responsibility.** Imposing government security standards on software companies is not the answer to improving the security of the country's computer networks, said Hun Kim, Director, Strategic Initiatives of the National Cybersecurity Division (NCSD) in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). "This is a shared responsibility," he said, and not only software developers, but those buying and using the IT must be involved. Addressing the Secure Knowledge Management Workshop in Amherst, NY on Thursday, September 23, Kim said that instead of legislation, software companies should find incentive for improving security in public demand. **Kim said DHS is working with network operators to improve detection of security breaches and formulate response plans, while seeking software assurance from the vendors.** "If we go after the root cause of the problem up front, it will dramatically reduce vulnerabilities that are out there in our critical infrastructures," he said.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/ny-bc-ny--cybersecurity0923sep23.0.2793027.story?coll=ny-ap-regional-wire>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis	
<p>Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.</p>	
<p>US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: Microsoft released a new security bulletin detailing critical vulnerabilities in the way it handles JPEG graphics. More information can be found here: http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms04-028.msp.</p>	
Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	135 (epmap), 137 (netbios-ns), 445 (microsoft-ds), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 9898 (dabber), 5554 (sasser-ftp), 1023 (Reserved), 25 (smtp), 139 (netbios-ssn), 1026 (nterm)
Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center	
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov .	

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

29. *September 26, Newsday (NY)* — **Man seen near bridge with bomb materials. A Queens, NY, man was arrested Friday, September 24, after he was spotted near the Atlantic Bridge in Nassau County, NY, with bomb-making materials, officials said.** Nassau County police officers traveling in a patrol car on Highway 878 in Larent saw the man, Hippocrates Koutosoupakis, walking about 200 feet off the road, spurring the inquiry, police said. Police pursued Koutosoupakis, 56, when he started running, and he was eventually detained, officials said. The suspect's van was found near the edge of a nearby expressway. Nassau County police described the materials as "substances used in the manufacturing of explosives," but would not say if the man was suspected of intending to cause damage to the bridge. The incident brought police to close the bridge until 10:30 a.m. Saturday and also sent Nassau and New York City police bomb squad units scrambling to the man's home in Long Island City. No explosives were found in Koutosoupakis' home, officials said. Police in Nassau arrested Koutosoupakis on charges of criminal possession of dangerous substances and criminal possession of a weapon, saying he was carrying a stun gun.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/nyc-brid26.0.68760.1.story?coll=ny-nynews-headlines>

30. *September 24, Associated Press* — **Small bomb disabled outside Asheville courthouse annex. Members of the Asheville, NC, police department's bomb squad disabled a possible homemade bomb that was discovered in front of the Buncombe County Courthouse annex, officials said.** A county employee reported seeing the device near the building about 8:00 a.m. Friday, September 24. Bomb squad officials said the device was about the size of a newspaper box. Both the annex and the Buncombe County administrative offices were evacuated, officials said. After clearing the area, authorities deliberately detonated the device.

Source: <http://www.charlotte.com/mld/observer/news/local/9751242.htm ?1c>

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General Sector

31. *September 26, Associated Press* — **Latest hurricane assault leaves Florida battered anew.** Jeanne, Florida's fourth hurricane in six weeks, came ashore on Sunday, August 26, in the same area hit three weeks ago by Hurricane Frances. Once inland, Jeanne's 400-mile diameter system trudged across the state, passing northeast of Tampa. It then headed toward the Panhandle, which was still recovering from Hurricane Ivan ten days earlier. The toll from the latest storm extended as far north as Daytona Beach, where the famous beach was ravaged by erosion, and south to Miami. **More than 1.5 million homes and businesses were without power. The hurricanes have prompted the largest relief effort in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) history, eclipsing responses for the 1994 earthquake in Northridge, CA, and the 2001 terrorist attacks,** director Michael Brown said. More than

3,000 National Guard troops were deployed to aid relief efforts. Before Jeanne, FEMA had received more than 600,000 requests for aid from hurricane victims in Florida and throughout the eastern United States and disbursed about \$360 million, Brown said. FEMA already has delivered millions of gallons of water, bags of ice and ready-to-eat meals to storm victims. Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/nation/20040926-1433-hurricanejeanne-florida.html>

32. *September 25, Reuters* — **ETA targets Spanish power links with pylon bombs. Spanish police blew up a bomb placed on an electricity pylon and hunted for another device on Saturday, September 25, after ETA Basque guerrillas said they had planted them, in what appeared to be a new tactic to hit the power infrastructure.** A caller claiming to represent ETA telephoned a Basque newspaper saying the separatist group had put bombs on two high-tension electricity cable pylons run by grid operator Red Electrica, police said. Police quickly found one on a pylon near the French border in the Basque province of Guipuzcoa. A source at Red Electrica did not expect the incident to have much impact on the electricity flow from France — a key power supplier for Spain. France, Europe's top power exporter, has two 400 kilovolt (kV) and two 220 kV lines carrying power to Spain. **Recently, several small bombs on a Red Electrica pylon reduced cross-border electricity flow between France and Spain for a week.** No one claimed responsibility for the attack but it bore the hallmarks of ETA. ETA is considered a terrorist group by Spain, the European Union and the United States. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=6332558>

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